

# MUNICIPAL COURT OF ATLANTA'S

## FY 21 REPORT TO THE CITY OF ATLANTA



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF ATLANTA IS TO DISPENSE JUSTICE IMPARTIALLY, EQUALITY, AND FAIRNESS WHILE PROMOTING RESPECT FOR THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

## COURT OBJECTIVES

- EXPAND THE COURT'S OPERATIONAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
- IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND TRANSPARENCY
- ATTRACT AND RETAIN A WELL-TRAINED, ENGAGED, COLLABORATIVE, AND DIVERSE WORKFORCE
- USE DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT



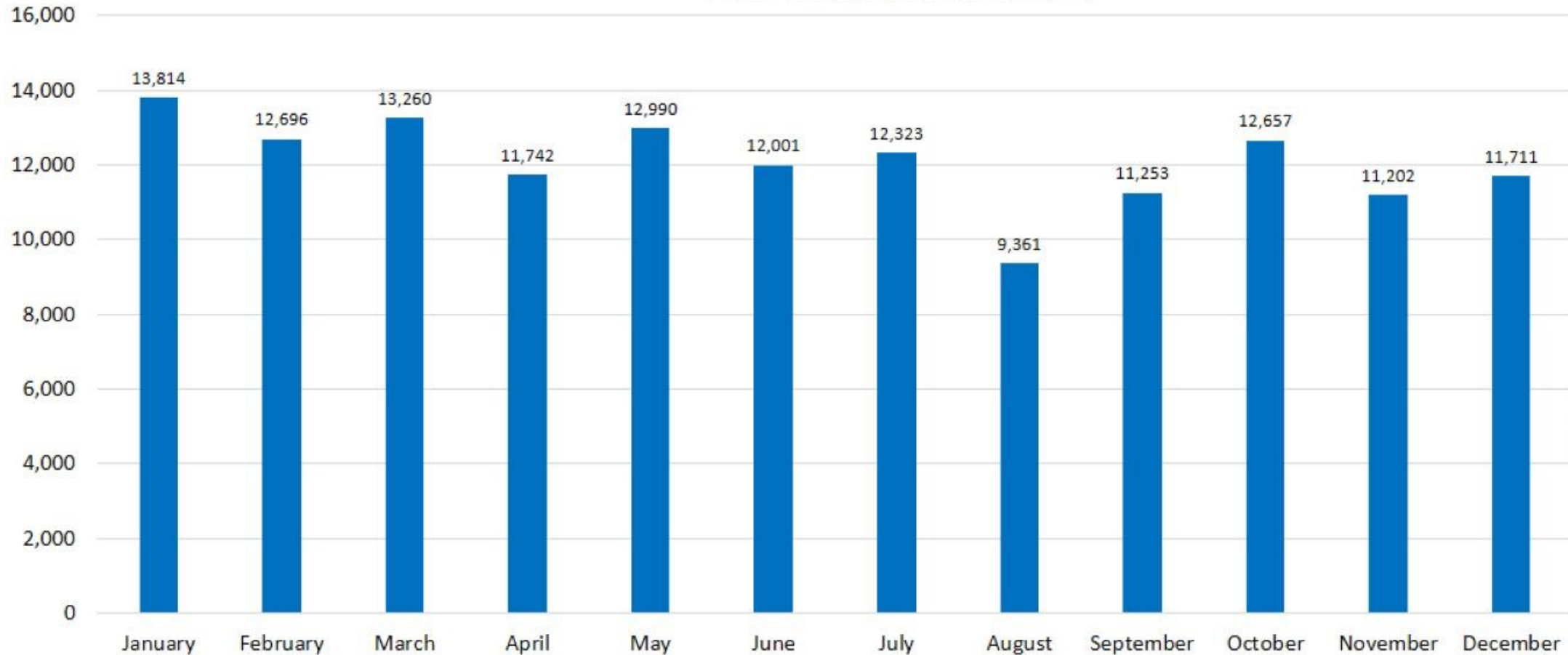


# BY THE NUMBERS



# MUNICIPAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

## 2019 CITATION INTAKE

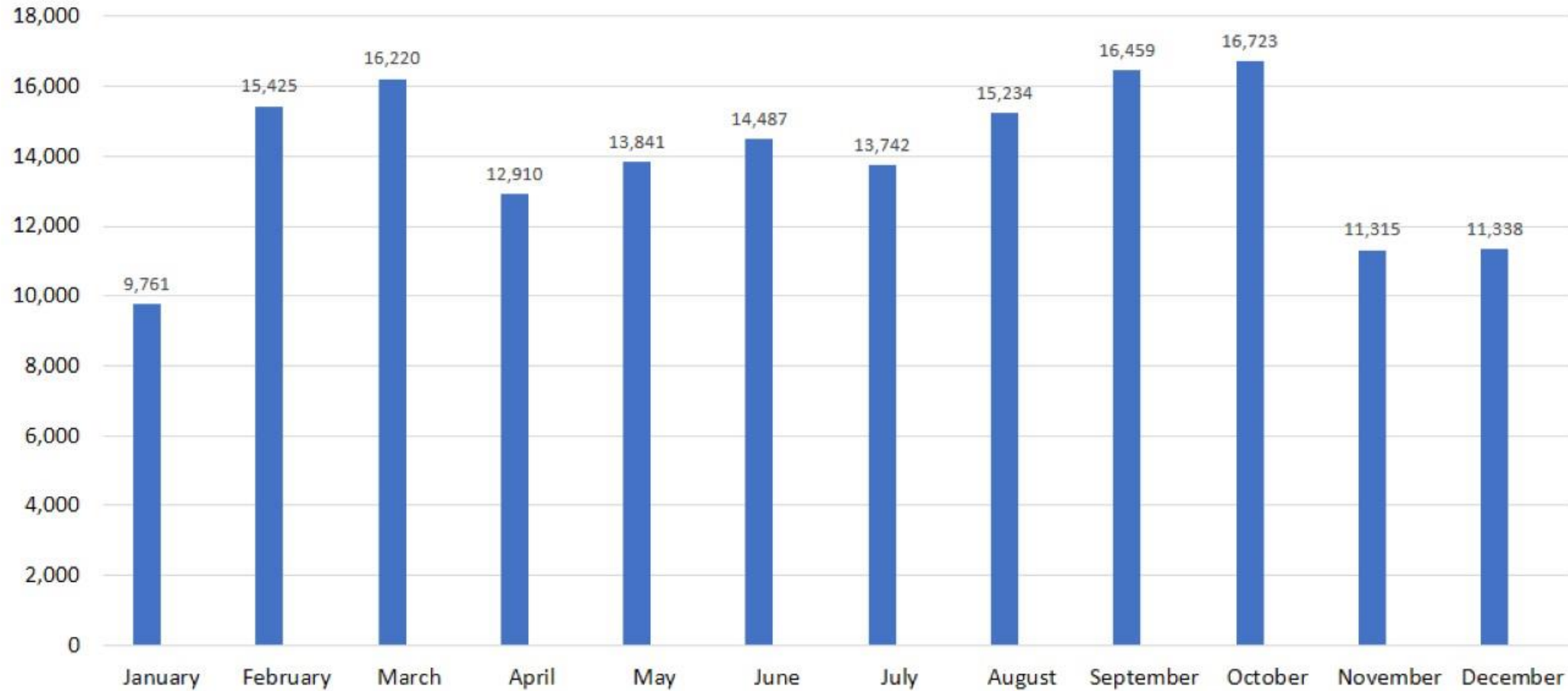


TOTAL CITATIONS  
= 145,283



# MUNICIPAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

2019 CASES CREATED

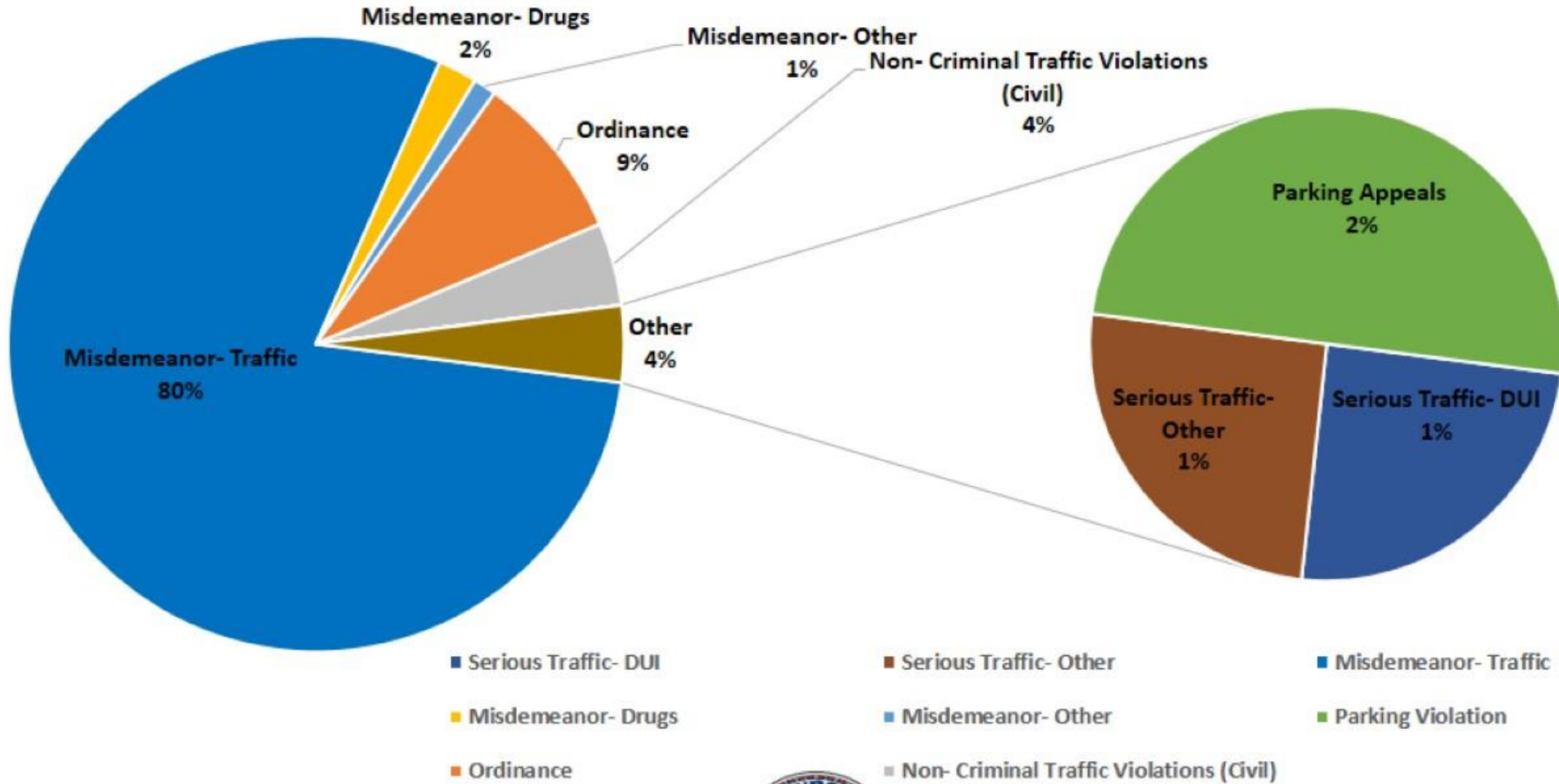


TOTAL CASES  
= 167,455



# MUNICIPAL COURT CASE DEMOGRAPHICS

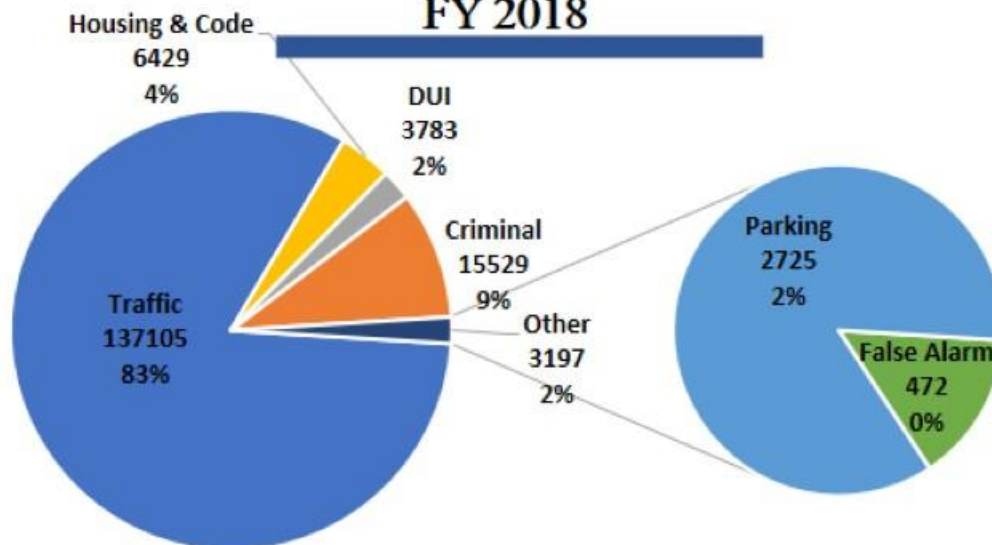
2019



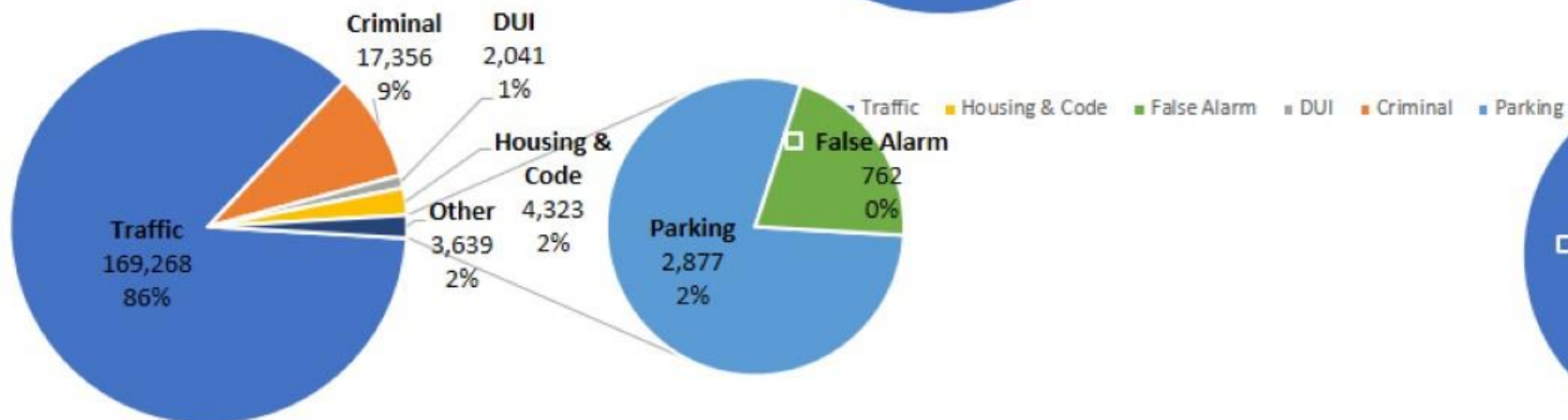


# MUNICIPAL COURT CASE ANALYTICS

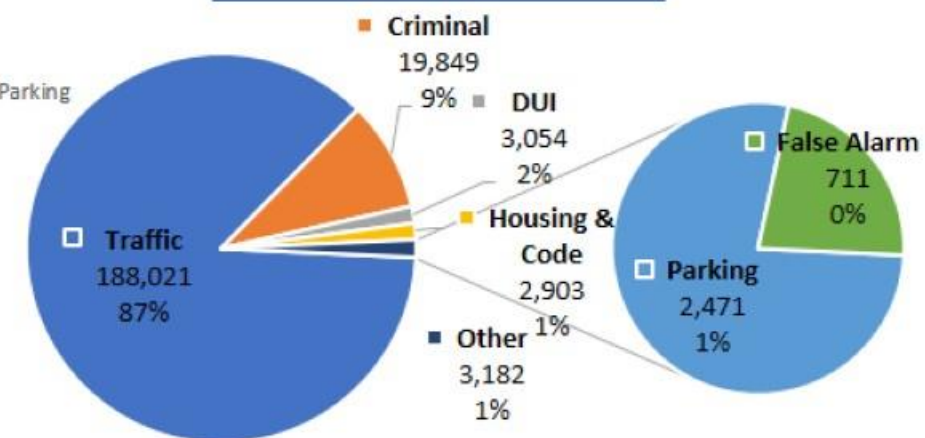
FY 2018



FY 2017



FY 2016



■ Traffic ■ Criminal ■ DUI ■ Housing & Code ■ Parking ■ False Alarm



■ Traffic ■ Criminal ■ DUI ■ Housing & Code ■ Parking ■ False Alarm

# FISCAL REPORTING





# MUNICIPAL COURT

## FY YEAR END ACCOUNTING

### CITY & STATE SURCHARGE SNAPSHOT

<b>Surcharges:</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Peace Officer Training(POPTF)	1,372,188	1,200,310	976,959	681,510	962,377	5,193,344
Peace Officer Pension (POAB)	753,537	631,789	514,225	368,222	486,333	2,754,106
Crime Victims Emergency Fund (CVEF)	7,531	5,357	4,120	3,953	6,901	27,862
Indigent Defense Fund(IDEF)	1,435,048	1,286,792	1,035,576	710,335	962,301	5,430,052
Crime Lab Fee (CLF)/SGF	16,934	13,407	10,566	8,367	21,881	71,155
Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Fund (DATE)	42,675	31,700	23,348	14,211	24,057	135,991
Indigent Defense Application Fee	62,426	46,468	30,793	16,501	5,725	161,913
Driver's Education Training Fund (DEFT)	206,043	180,982	140,311	95,231	127,458	750,025
Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund (BSITF)	16,373	12,699	11,454	11,019	20,902	72,447
GSP Motorcycle Unit	200,022	102,421	116,574	72,426	628,564	1,120,007
Local Crime Victims Assistance Fund (LVAP)	718,781	672,766	519,687	364,960	480,875	2,757,069
Municipal Victim Witness	283,951	242,959	181,522	120,857	173,427	1,002,716
Dept. of Corrections-City Jail	2,154,971	1,921,283	1,559,253	1,025,785	1,444,296	8,105,588

**\$27 MM** Approx. Over Five Years  
 2019 → 53% increase in contributions

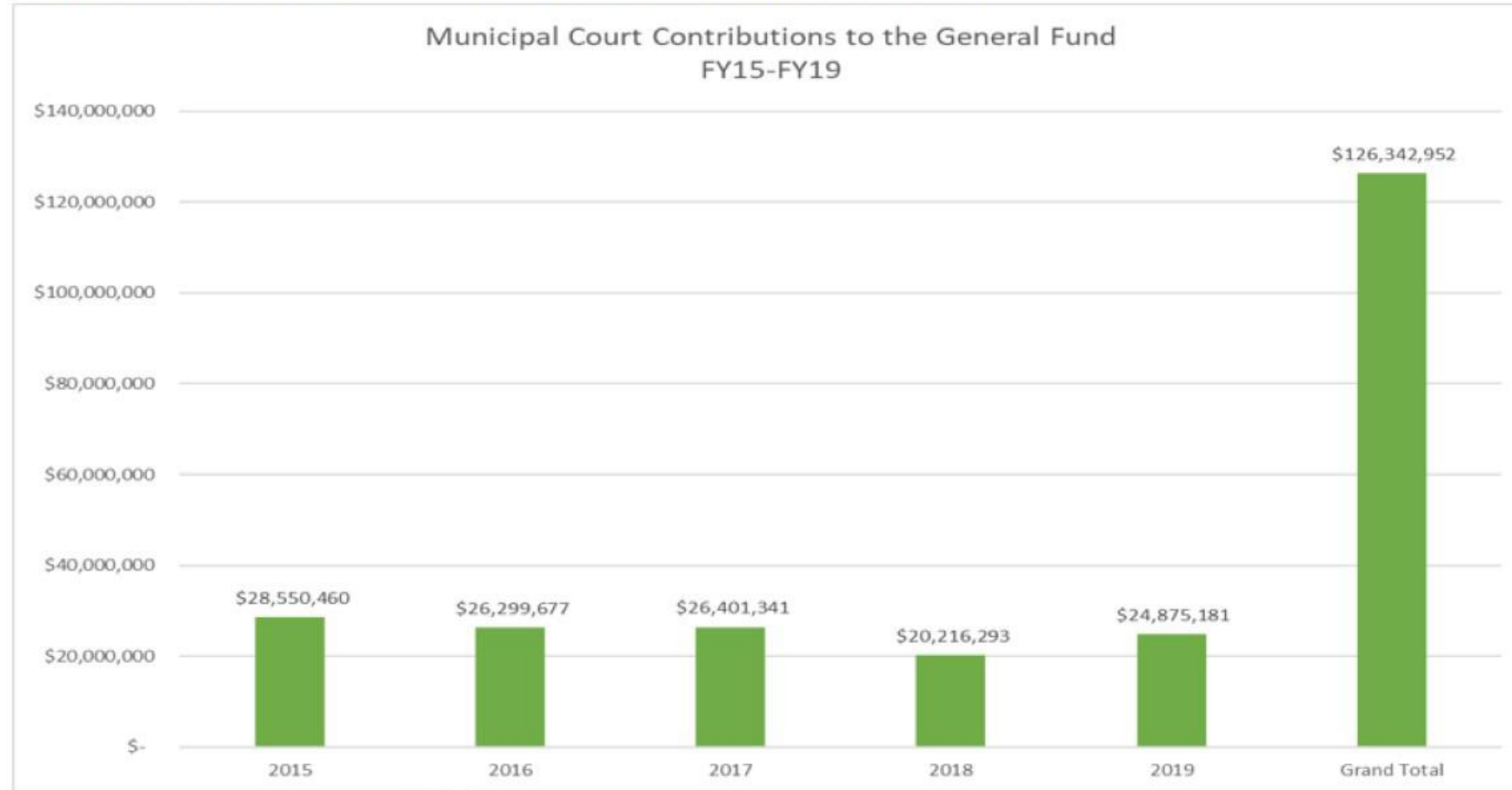


# MUNICIPAL COURT FY YEAR END ACCOUNTING

## General Fund Year-Over-Year Transfer Totals

**\$126 MM**

Approx. Over Five Years





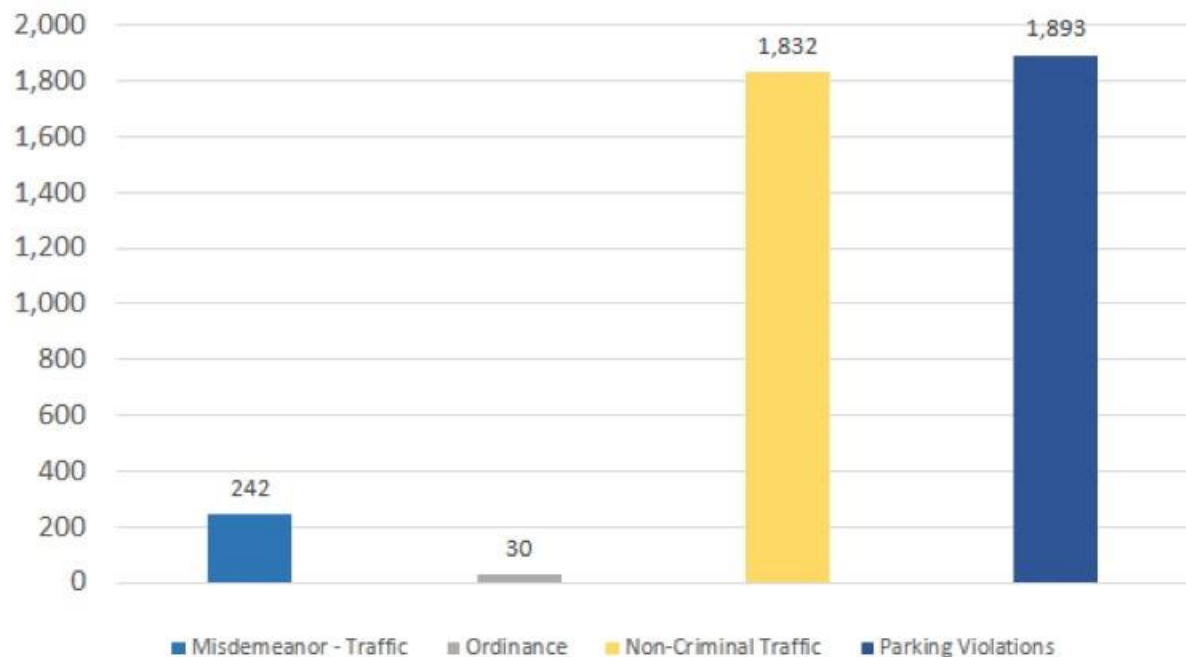
# CASE ANALYTICS





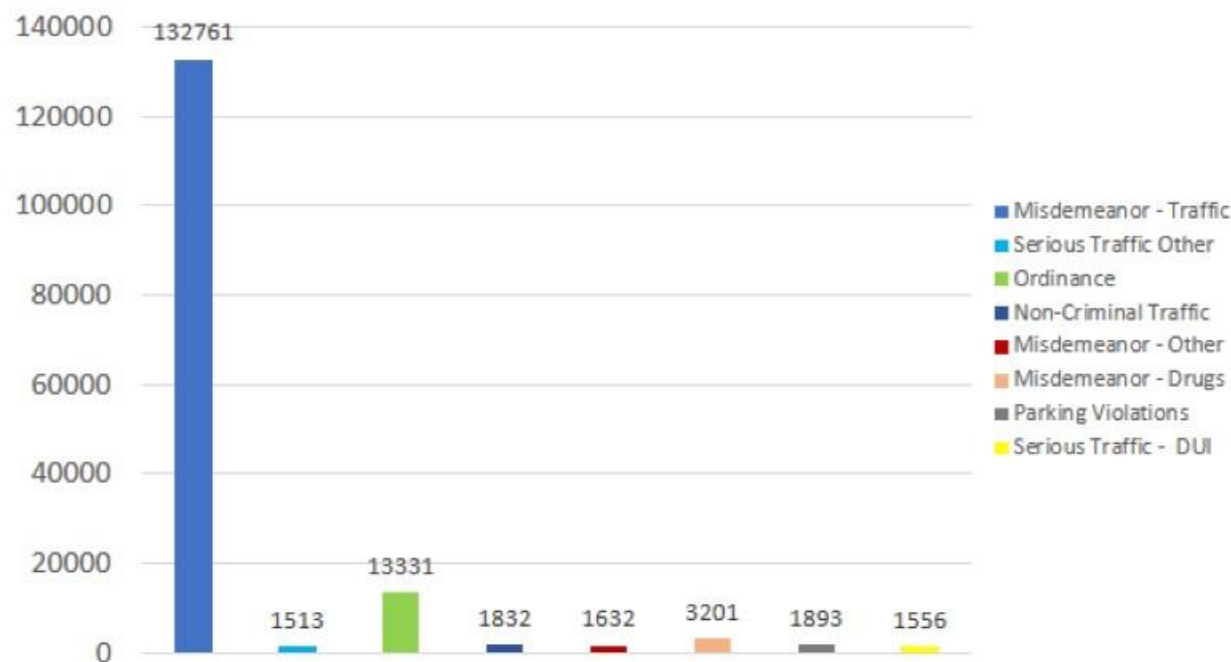
# MUNICIPAL COURT CASE ANALYTICS

## Cases Set For Trial\*



\*AS DEFINED AND REPORTED TO THE GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS CALENDAR YEAR 2019 ANNUAL REPORTING GUIDELINES.

## Self Represented Litigants

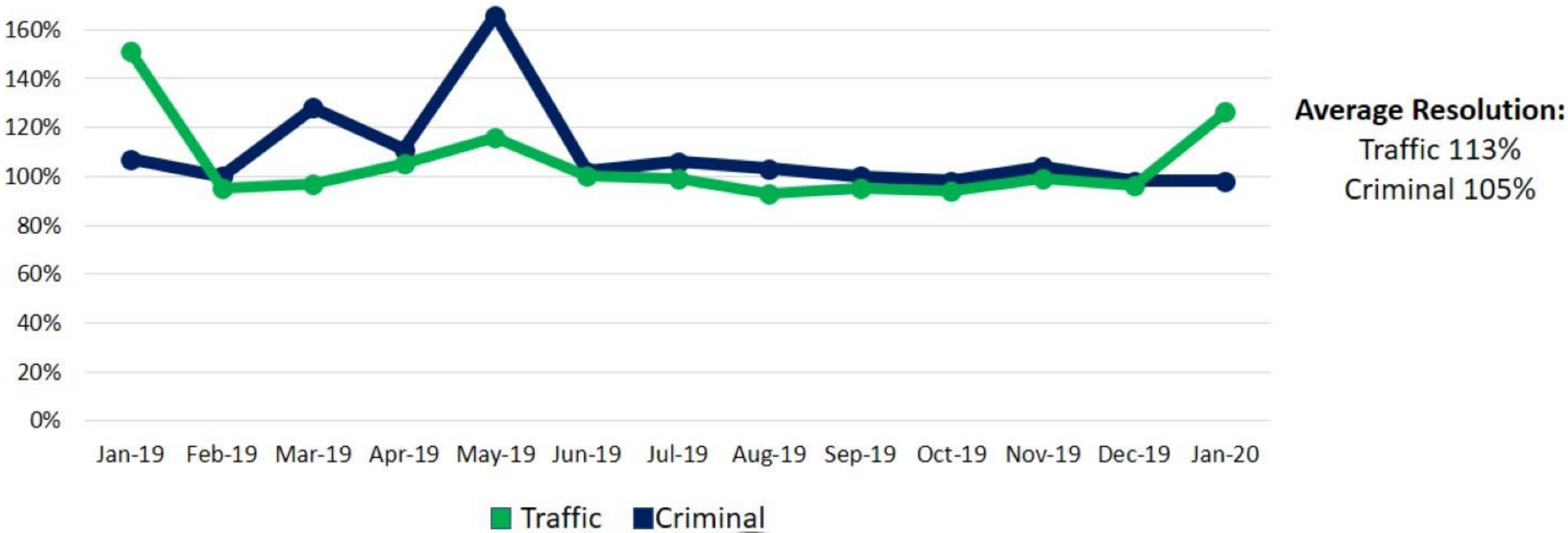


**TOTAL SELF REPRESENTED CASES = 157,719**  
94% of TOTAL CASES



# MUNICIPAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

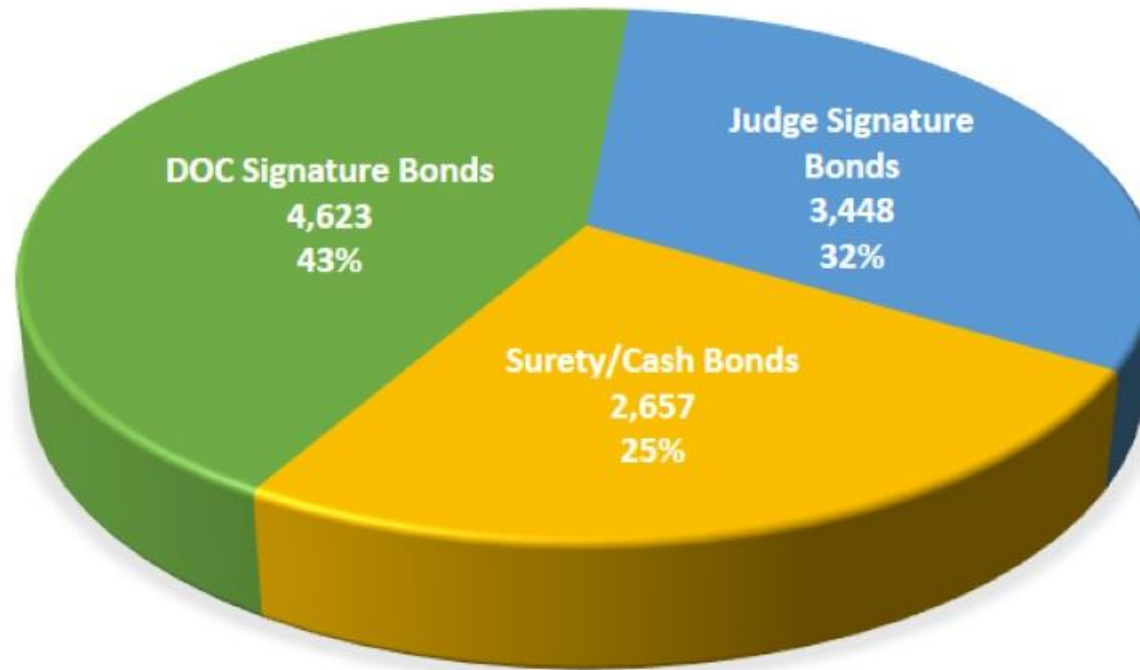
CASE CLEARANCE RATE  
2019



# MUNICIPAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

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BONDS  
2019



**TOTAL BONDS**  
10,728





# MUNICIPAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

FAILURE TO APPEAR (FTA) MARCH 2017 – MARCH 2020



# MUNICIPAL COURT

## BY THE NUMBERS

### FAILURE TO APPEAR (FTA) COURT

#### What is a Failure to Appear (FTA)

An FTA results when a Defendant misses the court date on their citation or court notice.

##### What happens next:

1. The case is placed in FTA status (BUT there is no warrant yet);
2. The Defendant will receive a postcard alerting them of their missed court appearance and FTA status;
3. IF the Defendant does not come in before the 30<sup>th</sup> day, an Arrest Warrant is generated.

#### Failure to Appear Court Options

##### What can a Defendant do about their FTA?

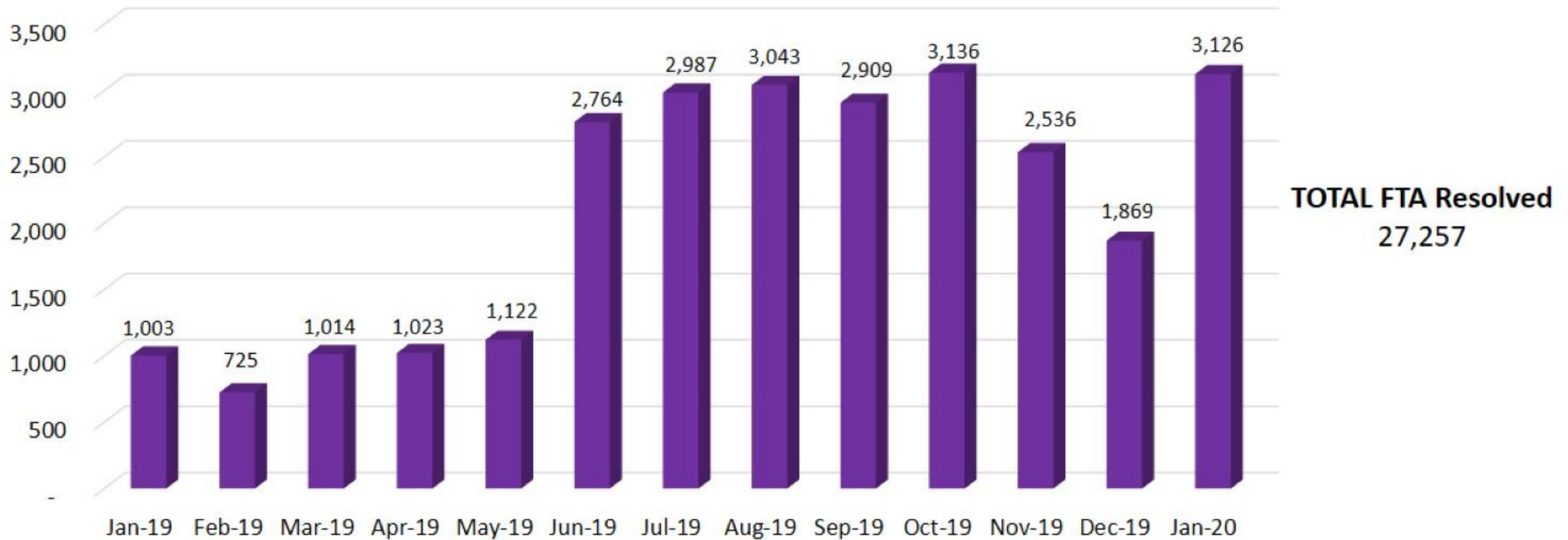
1. A Defendant may walk into the Courthouse any time Monday through Friday and see the FTA Judge;
2. A Defendant may walk into the Courthouse any time and receive a rescheduled court date from the FTA window;
3. IF the case was payable online before the FTA, the Defendant may come in any time and close the case at the FTA window by paying.



# MUNICIPAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

## FAILURE TO APPEAR (FTA) COURT CASES RESOLVED

January 2019 – January 2020





# CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

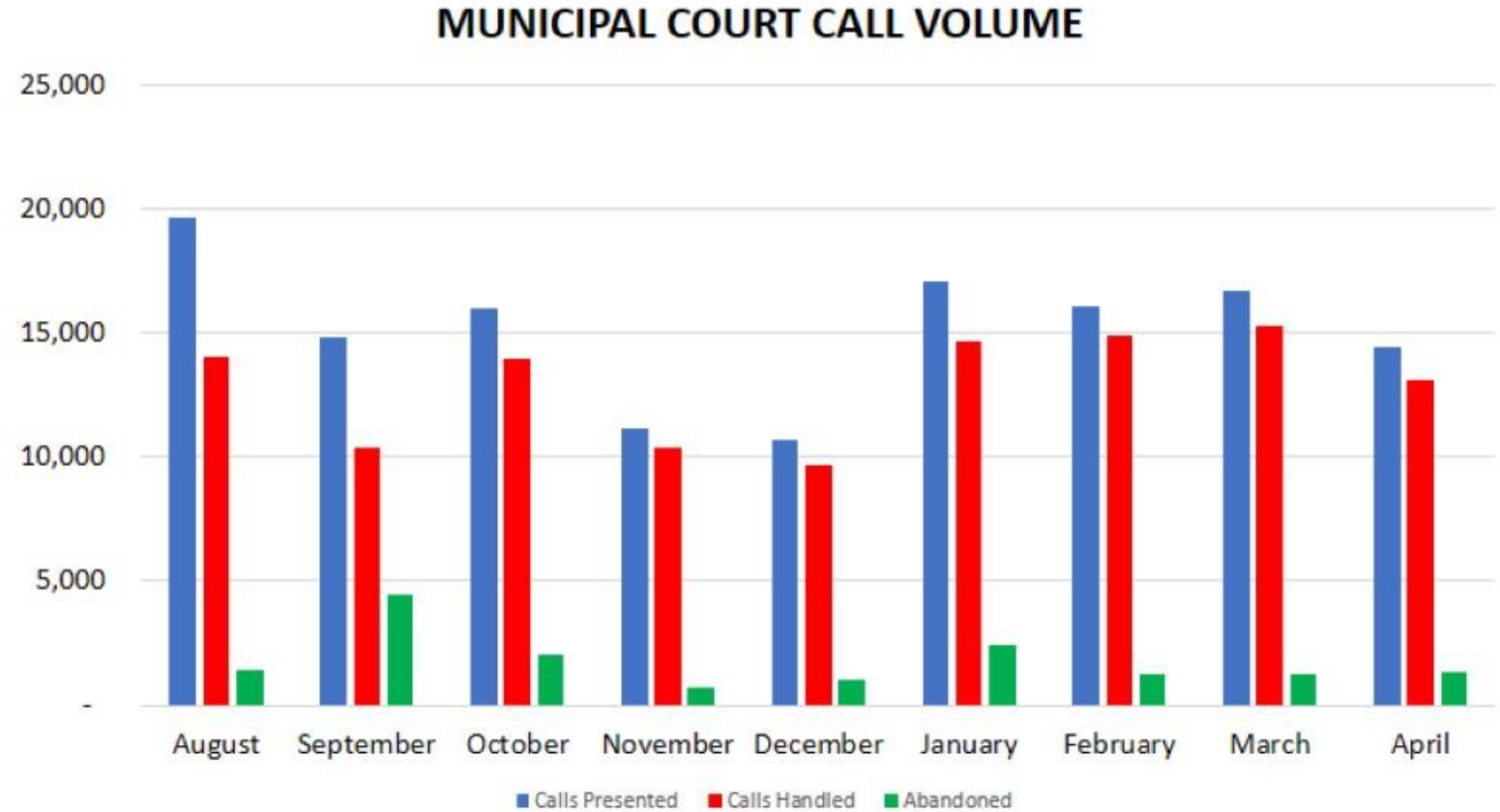


# MUNICIPAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

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## CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & RESPONSIVENESS

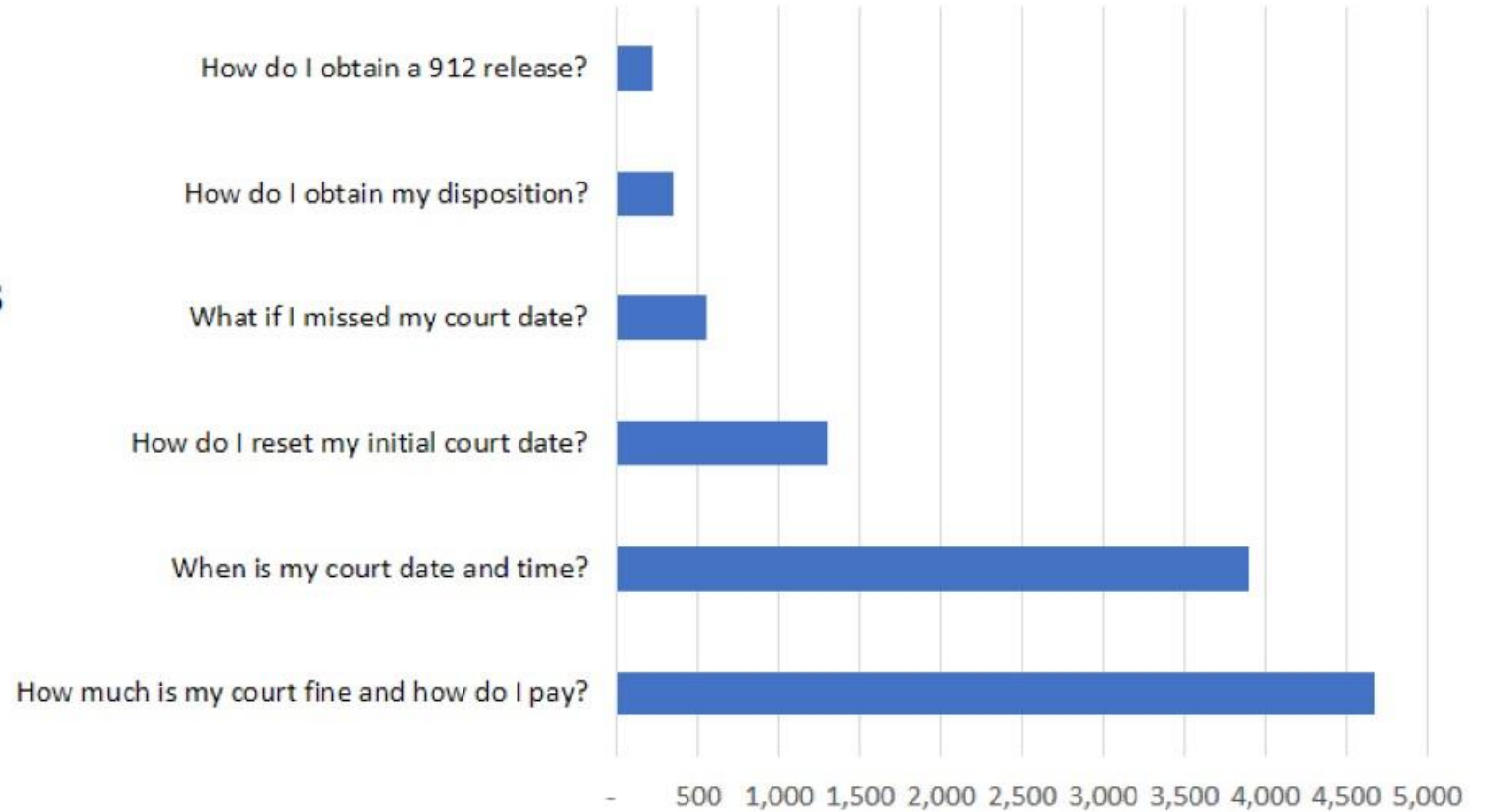
**MONTHLY CALL VOLUME  
AUGUST 2019-APRIL 2020**



# MUNICIPAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

## CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & RESPONSIVENESS

**Most Frequently Asked Questions  
AUGUST 2019-APRIL 2020**





# COURT PROGRAMS





# MUNICIPAL COURT PROGRAMS & INNOVATION

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## HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM



### Purpose

- Established in October 2019 to provide a comprehensive, systematic approach to addressing the needs of homeless defendants through multidisciplinary strategies
- The Homeless Court Program GOALS are:
  1. To counter the effects of criminal cases pushing homeless defendants further outside of society;
  2. To emphasize the treatment and rehabilitation of homeless defendants; and
  3. To combine a progressive plea bargain system, alternative sentencing structure, and program activities to address a full range of misdemeanor offenses.





# MUNICIPAL COURT PROGRAMS & INNOVATION

## HOMELESS COURT PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



- Active Enrollments: 34
- # Charges: 106
- Prior Felonies: 70%
- Males: 90%
- Race/ Ethnicity:
  - 78% African American
  - 12% White
  - 10% Other





# MUNICIPAL COURT PROGRAMS & INNOVATION

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## Resources of Homeless Court Participants

- No Housing: 100%
- No Insurance: 100%
- Need Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Treatment: 73%
- Need Identification/ Documentation: 76%  
(ID, birth certificate, homeless verification letter, etc.)
- No Family Assistance/ Support Systems: 92%



# MUNICIPAL COURT PROGRAMS & INNOVATION

## HOMELESS COURT – EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS

### Client J

Time homeless: 7 years

Entered Program: January 2020

Circumstances: History of mental illness partially address

#### Progress Details:

- Reconnected to mental health services
- Consistent with 2 volunteering opportunities to obtain skills/experience for full-time employment
- Maintained contact with CARE Rep by phone and email
- Secured temporary housing and in line for section 8 approval
- Currently on track to successfully complete program



### Client G

- Time homeless: 4 years
- Entered Program: February 2020
- Circumstances: No consistent work due to lack of personal documentation/ identification
- Progress Details:
  - Connected with Atlanta Mission where client stayed for 1 month
  - Since obtained his own housing
  - Maintains 2 jobs; a construction job and works as a ground's keeper for his apartment complex
  - Currently on track to successfully complete program





# MUNICIPAL COURT PROGRAMS & INNOVATION

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## RESTORE ATLANTA – COMMUNITY COURT DIVISION

### Alternative Sentencing Programing

**TLC (Teens Learning Control)**: an alternative sentencing program that provides offenders under the age of 25 an opportunity to learn about Georgia traffic laws in order to improve driving skills and decision-making skills.

**Restorative Justice**: an alternative sentencing program for individuals under the age of 25 meant to provide defendants with opportunities for further education and resources to learn meaningful coping and decision-making skills to prevent future offenses.

Referrals to Restore Atlanta 2019-2020	
Total Cases: 2,326	
TLC	Restorative Justice
Graduates	Graduates
1,288	202





# MUNICIPAL COURT PROGRAMS & INNOVATION YOUTH OUTREACH



**COME. EXPLORE. LEARN.**

A free unique education experience that gets students excited about government, career exploration, and their responsibilities as citizens. Students will discover and understand laws that can be found in everyday life scenarios.



## Schools Hosted

- Hollis Innovation Academy
- Carver High School
- Westlake Highschool
- KIPP Atlanta Collegiate





# MUNICIPAL COURT PROGRAMS & INNOVATION CODE ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY



2019  
**CITY OF ATLANTA HANDBOOK**



## City of Atlanta Code Enforcement Training Academy



This is to certify that  
Name Here

Has successfully completed the prescribed Course of Instruction  
for the Code Enforcement Training Academy conducted by the  
Code Enforcement Commission  
and is entitled to this  
**Certificate**

In Testimony Whereof, we have signed and sealed with the Seal of the  
City of Atlanta, this twenty fifth day of June, 2019

Jayce Shepherd, Chair  
Code Enforcement Commission



**Municipal Court of Atlanta**

Honorable Christopher T. Purdie  
Chief Judge, Presiding Judge  
Housing and Code  
Enforcement Division  
250 Germain St., 9th  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 526-6700  
court.atlantaga.gov

The Municipal Court of Atlanta's mission is to administer an efficient and impartial justice system while dispensing equity and fairness. The Court processes a variety of citations for violations under state laws and city ordinances including (but not limited to): parking violations, traffic and moving violations and "quality of life" cases on disorderly conduct, minor drug offenses and pet handling for the City of Atlanta.

### FAQs

**How Can I Pay?**  
Citizens that are eligible to be paid in advance online must be paid prior to your scheduled court date. To pay your citation online only, please visit [court.atlantaga.gov](http://court.atlantaga.gov) before your court date. Citations may also be paid in person during business hours at any of our satellite offices or by phone. For citations that are not eligible for advance online payment, the fine amount will be set by a judge on your court date.

**What If I Missed My Court Date?**  
The Court offers a calendar for those who have failed to appear (FTA). These hearings are offered bi-weekly through Friday beginning at 1:00 PM in our first court, then proceed to the other courts. Once the FTA calendar reaches capacity, remaining defendants will have the option to sign up for a future court date. FTA sign-up is available only until 11:59 PM. An FTA fee must be paid. License reinstatement instructions will be provided at your FTA hearing. Failing to appear may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest.

**Can I Change My Court Date?**  
Recent requests for new court dates may be accepted prior to the scheduled court date. Please be advised that the citation must be in your official name only, appear in court on the set date and time. Request forms can be completed in person at the Court or submitted online at [court.atlantaga.gov](http://court.atlantaga.gov).

Answers to more frequently asked questions may be found online or received by phone. [court.atlantaga.gov](http://court.atlantaga.gov) 1-800-455-7464





THANK YOU!

